

Rainmen
crowds
soar in
second
season



Madonna
flaunts
her
new
beau

Storm left
some people
powerless

BLACKOUT Rain and high winds knocked out the power to about 3,000 households in the province yesterday.

Nova Scotia Power spokeswoman Margaret Murphy said the power was out in Porters Lake, Sydney, and in the Amherst area.

It went dark between 5 and 6 a.m., she said. The outages were fixed by yesterday afternoon.

METRO HALIFAX

Local pg 4

Layoffs unfair,
say Herald staff

Business pg 7

Markets take
a tumble

Canada pg 5

U.S. driving
economy fix?

Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Your Money

• Time is money, and the Smart Cookies have advice on where to find financial tips online, pg 8

Health

• Tips on how to eat healthy while cutting down on your grocery bills, pg 11



Later this week

• **AUTO:** What are some of the top-value cars available in the market
• **FOOD:** Wine columnist Peter Rockwell introduces some budget vintages
• **CANADA:** Some family-friendly and dirt cheap ways to have fun

Province to gamble on electronic keno

Gaming Corp. reverses 2007 decision, allows game into bars and restaurants

JENNIFER TAPLIN

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Electronic keno — will it be fun and games or wallet-busting addictive?

The Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation is rolling out electronic keno in 180 establishments throughout the province in March.

It involves buying tickets then watching the TV screen in the bar or restaurant a few minutes later for the winning numbers.

The NSGC rejected keno in 2007, but it's going ahead with a re-designed ver-

"We know from other types of gambling that this is where people run into trouble, particularly when they feel they have some control over it."

Elizabeth Stephen, problem gambling specialist

sion. Krista Grant, a NSGC spokeswoman, said there will be 10-minute mandatory breaks every hour including a one-hour break every day from 4 to 5 p.m. Also, the maximum wager per draw is \$10 whereas industry standard is \$20, and there will be on-screen and point-of-sale responsible gambling messages.

But the fact that 121 draws a day means someone could spend a maximum of \$1,210 a day concerns Elizabeth Stephen, a problem gambling specialist with Capital Health Addiction Services.

She said it could be as problematic as VLTs, since both require a small amount of money at first, but can cost a lot over time.

"We know from other types of gambling that this is where people run into trouble, particularly when they feel they have some control over it. They're picking numbers, deciding how much to bet and how many tickets, but really they have no control over the outcome."

And setting the maximum bet at \$10 is no guarantee, Stephen said.

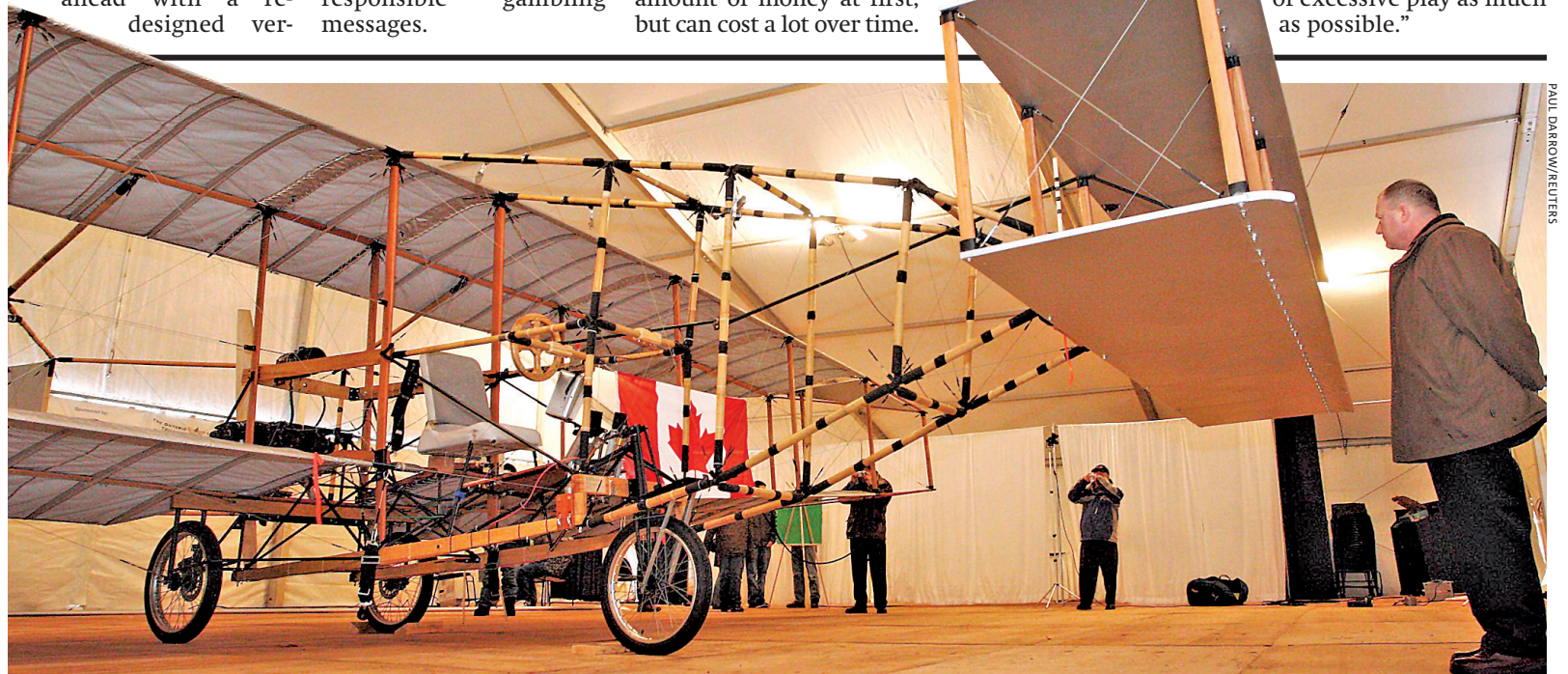
"There's nothing that says this is actually going to be safe. There's no evaluation or proof that it's

going to make it safe," she said.

Grant said they worked with "leading responsible gambling experts" who said this version of keno is one of the most progressive games by industry standards.

"What we want to do is minimize the risk of excessive play, while still maintaining some entertainment value for the sector," she said.

"We've done our homework and we've implemented important characteristics ... because we want to minimize the risk of excessive play as much as possible."



The replica of the Silver Dart airplane sits in a temporary hangar yesterday at Baddeck Bay in Cape Breton. Poor weather prevented the aircraft from flying on the 100th anniversary of the first heavier-than-air flight in Canada. The replica did make a series of successful test flights Sunday.

Mother Nature grounds Silver Dart replica

CAPE BRETON The test runs on Sunday were a success, but the weather nixed the main event for the flight of the Silver Dart replica yesterday.

Bjarni Tryggvason, a former Canadian astronaut, said he wasn't too concerned with his first test

drive over Bras d'Or Lake on Sunday, even though the front wheel fell off. It lifted slightly, no more than a half-metre off the ground, before landing and then turning hard on its front wheel after flying a distance of 10 metres.

A crowd of several hun-

dred people who lined up neatly behind an orange barrier clapped and yelled words of encouragement.

Tryggvason said Sunday's last flight of the day outdistanced the original flight which took place on Feb. 23, 1909.

"(Alexander Graham

Bell's team) flew longer flights later on in it. They flew it about 50 times before they smucked in (to the ground) the final time," he said.

"It'll be nice if we can get some longer flights in here. I think we have to tweak up our engine to get

a little bit more horsepower out of it. It's not quite giving us all I'd like to see."

Snow and wind gusts kept the replica on the ground yesterday, but stamp and coin ceremonies indoors went ahead.

METRO HALIFAX

FILES FROM THE CAPE BRETON POST

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Junior high student to be awarded Rescuer certificate

The Canadian Red Cross is presenting its Rescuer Award certificate this morning to 12-year-old Chance MacDonald, who last week used the Heimlich manoeuvre to save a choking classmate. MacDonald will receive his certificate at Dr. Thomas McCulloch Junior High School. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Young to rock town April 10

Canadian rock legend Neil Young is returning to the Halifax Metro Centre for a show on Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55, \$75, \$89.50 and \$250, plus service charges, and will go on sale this Saturday at 9 a.m. Young played a sold-out show at the Metro Centre in late November. **METRO HALIFAX**

Spanish fishing crew on safe ground

RESCUE The crew of a Spanish fishing vessel that caught fire and sank 400 kilometres east of St. John's on Sunday are now safe at a hotel.

The Canadian Coast Guard ship Leonard J. Cowley plucked the 21 men and one woman of the Monte Galineiro from lifeboats in the North Atlantic.

The Cowley docked in St. John's harbour yesterday as the rescued Spanish crew members smiled and waved to people on the dock through the ship's windows.

It took about an hour for crew members to clear customs.

They then posed for pictures before being taken to the hotel.

Many escaped the sinking boat with nothing but the clothes they were wearing, while others managed to grab passports and a few personal items.

Another member of the crew was airlifted to St. John's by helicopter Sunday, suffering from hypothermia. He has since been released from hospital and rejoined the rest of the crew.

The Cowley was on a routine fisheries patrol when it received a distress call from the 30-metre trawler.

It was on the scene in about 10 minutes.

According to the Cowley's captain, Derek LeRiche, the Spanish boat went under the waves within 20 minutes of the distress call.

ST. JOHN'S TELEGRAM

Footage from the coast guard's dramatic rescue of a Spanish trawler's crew at metronews.ca/canada

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Afghans chant "death to Canadians" after blast kills two children at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs Both sides take lessons from former Native leader David Ahenakew's acquittal of promoting hate at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs Love Bytes offers up advice on breaking up



Shooting not random: Cops



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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A man was shot in the arm during a home invasion in Dartmouth on Sunday night.

The 27-year-old man was at home on Dundas Street when he heard a commotion at his front door at around 6:30 p.m.

"The man went to his front door and a couple of people were trying to force their way in," said Const. Jeff Carr, a spokesman for the Halifax Regional Police.

The shooting appears to have happened in the doorway.

"They didn't get in, I believe."

The victim told police the suspects, described as black men wearing ski masks, stole his jewelry and took off.

Police believe it wasn't a random act.

"It would appear they were looking for something," Carr said, but added he didn't know what specifically the suspects were looking for.

The victim was taken to the Halifax Infirmary with non-life-threatening injuries. He was expected to be released from the hospital yesterday afternoon.

Investigators and forensic officers examined the scene yesterday. As of mid-afternoon, there were no suspects in custody.

Carr said the incident isn't related to the murder of Terry Marriott Jr. on Friday.

Need funds for repairs: School presidents

UNIVERSITIES Bricks and mortar are on the minds of many university presidents in Nova Scotia as the Tory government prepares a budget expected to include a major infrastructure to stimulate the economy.

Cape Breton University president John Harker said there are places at his institution that need immediate attention. "Some of our buildings are quite an age now and some are 40 years old. We really need to see things like windows and doors replaced," said Harker, adding the immediate repairs to basic infrastructure are estimated to cost \$6 million.

"Our list that we submitted was of very critical things ... We can't really always go on deferring dealing with brick failure and windows that leak energy."

The Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents reports an infrastructure deficit of \$543 million among the 11 degree granting post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia. The council's revised plan calls for the province to invest \$85 million in projects determined to be most critical. **THE CAPE BRETON POST**

News in brief

ROBBERY Two men sporting bandannas over their faces walked into Avery's Farm Market on Highway 7 on Saturday evening and demanded money and cigarettes from the store employee. One of the men had a knife and the two left with an undisclosed amount of money and cigarettes in a duffle bag. The men wore dark clothing with one being described as six feet tall and the other five-foot-eight. If you have any information about this robbery, contact any RCMP office, Halifax Regional Police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

THEFT A small amount of money was stolen from the Downsview Veterinary Hospital in Lower Sackville after being broken into early yesterday. An alarm went off at the hospital around 2:30 a.m. as police believe a suspect or suspects broke into the hospital by the front door and then took money from a cash box. If you have any information about this robbery, contact any RCMP office, Halifax Regional Police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. **METRO HALIFAX**

A Halifax Regional Police officer climbs over a fence yesterday as he looks for evidence following a robbery on Sunday night. A 27-year-old male was shot in the arm and robbed by two men who forced their way into a house on Dundas Street in Dartmouth after the victim answered the door.

Art competition launched for Trillium

Halifax will be getting a new piece of public art. We just don't know what it will be or who will make it.

The Public Art Competition was kicked off yesterday by the Planning and Design Centre. The non-profit group is commissioning a new work of art to be displayed at the front of the Trillium, a development being built on South Park Street near Spring Garden Road.

"Competitions are really a fabulous way to attract emerging and established artists. And this competition encourages cross-discipline design teams both locally, re-

gionally and internationally," said co-ordinator Rachel Derrah.

The project is being endorsed by the city, which has made public art a higher priority in its HRMbyDesign plan. The developer of the Trillium site, W. M. Fares Group, is also supporting the project and will host the 12-foot-in-diameter space for the art piece.

"I think it's something that we can give back to the art community in Halifax," said Wadih Fares, president of W.M. Fares Group.

"It is a national and international competition. I have



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Construction continues on the Trillium development on South Park Street yesterday.

to admit, though, I would love to see a local artist win it."

The first stage of the con-

test calls on artists to submit conceptualizations of their pieces.

Three semi-finalists will be selected and receive \$1,000. The second stage involves advancing and refining the pitches. Then a panel of judges will pick a winner, who will receive \$5,000 and have their art piece commissioned.

Artists can enter the contest pdcentre.ca/publicart. Packages must be post-marked by March 27. The winning piece is set to be unveiled in the summer of 2010.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

Road between South Shore and Annapolis Valley moving forward
A \$3.2-million road connection between the South Shore and the Annapolis Valley is moving forward. The province has awarded a contract to Dexter Construction that will see repaving of a section of Trunk 8 completed by late summer. **METRO HALIFAX**

'The worst week in the history of the Chronicle Herald:' Union

PAUL MCLEOD
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Cuts at the Chronicle Herald caused workers to picket yesterday, as the union explores filing an unfair labour practice complaint against management.

At the beginning of February the Herald announced it would cut 24 jobs, or about one-quarter of its newsroom, to slash \$1.5 million from the budget. The Herald has been hurt by declining ad revenue.

The union said it has offered several compromises to save jobs, but management has refused to work with them. Yesterday they staged an information picket outside the newspaper's offices.

"We've tried to keep it in-house, but it's too late for that now. This is shaping up to be the worst week in the history of the Chronicle Herald," said union president Peter Duffy.



Chronicle-Herald employees demonstrate in front of the newspaper's building on Joseph Howe Road yesterday. The Halifax Typographical Union, which represents the unionized newsroom workers at the Herald, says the paper has refused to work with the union in good faith to save jobs.

"Each concession we've agreed to make has been met with 'no, no,' or 'but...' It's to the point where we don't think

they're hearing us anymore."

The union said it could save six jobs through measures like increased pay-

ment into pensions and a week of unpaid leave. Duffy said 10 employees have taken buyouts.

The union is also exploring legal avenues, and is alleging the company unfairly targeted only unionized employees in its cuts. No managers were cut in the recent layoffs.

Dan Leger, director of news content for the Herald, did not return calls by deadline. However he denied to CTV News that management was acting unfairly.

"Well, the recommendations had to actually have the effect of saving money. They couldn't be recommendations for the company to spend more money," said Leger.

"We have a collective agreement in place with the union that sets out a rulebook, which we are following religiously every step of the way."

ShareYourViews

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Steel plant to lay off 15

ECONOMY Laurentian Energy Corp. is laying off 15 employees at its steel fabrication plant at Sydport outside of Sydney.

The announcement was made by company officials during a meeting yesterday morning following the decision by Laurentian's client,

"We're just caught up in what's a much bigger problem. Companies simply don't want to commit capital at a time when there's no obvious use for the product."

CEO Jim Wooder, Laurentian Energy

Nabors Canada, to temporarily suspend work on a \$35-million contract to construct two land-based drill rigs for gas fields in northeastern British Columbia.

The layoffs are directly related to the dramatic drop in the demand for oil and natural gas, which has hit Alberta's oil patch particularly hard, said Laurentian Energy chief executive officer Jim Wooder.

"We're just caught up in what's a much bigger problem. Companies sim-

ply don't want to commit capital at a time when there's no obvious use for the product," he said.

"We're hopeful that once gas prices recover these rigs are going to be very much in demand

again and we'll carry on. But if you don't need to spend money now then clearly that's the commercially sound business decision to take."

The Laurentian-built rigs are about 30 per cent complete, and Nabors has committed more than 50 per cent of the overall cost.

Wooder said steps will be taken to ensure the parts of the rigs already completed and equipment that has been used are properly secured.

The rigs were to be commissioned in the spring.

CAPE BRETON POST

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'Métis Prince' dies

Joe Mercredi, an aboriginal advocate, former newspaper publisher, and historian in the Northwest Territories, died over the weekend, CBC.ca reports. He was 71. Often referred to as the "Métis Prince," Mercredi founded the original Northwest Territory Métis Association in 1970. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada/World



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, meets with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday. Harper said in an interview that Canada does not have the same financial sector problems as the United States.

PM: Recession hinges on U.S.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, voicing deep concern about the financial system in the United States and other countries, said yesterday he could not see how the current recession can end until they are fixed.

"We're obviously all hugely worried about the American financial system and about the financial system of some other countries," the Conservative

leader said in an interview in New York with Fox News.

"Frankly ... until that problem gets fixed, it's hard for me to see how we're going to turn the corner on this recession that we're in now."

He also said Canada did not have the same financial sector problems as in the United States.

"We haven't had to bail out any of our financial institutions. We don't have

the mortgage problem. Certainly, we have a downturn in our housing sector, but it's not structural. There will be no government bailout of mortgages in Canada," the prime minister said.

One of the strengths of Canada's financial system, Harper added, is its compactness, with just six major banks and three major insurance companies.

REUTERS

News in brief

COURTS First Nations leader David Ahenakew, 75, who called Jews a "disease" was found not guilty yesterday of willfully promoting hatred, but the judge said the comments were "revolting, disgusting and untrue." **REUTERS**

INQUIRY An RCMP officer who confronted Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski the night he died after being Tasered by police at Vancouver airport testified yesterday that he feared for his safety, CBC.ca reports.

ENERGY Ontario residents couldn't sell their houses or condos without first getting a home energy audit — which now cost about \$300 — under the proposed new Green Energy Act. That's one of several measures in the bill unveiled by Ontario Energy Minister George Smitherman to boost incentives for electricity conservation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MP planning crackdown on foreign worker abuses

LABOUR The federal government intends to bring in new regulations to punish employers who exploit foreign workers by forcing them to toil in poor working conditions for low pay.

The new rules, expected by the end of March, would prevent employers with repeated violations of labour laws from being allowed to bring in foreign workers, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said.

"I will be coming forward with draft regulations later in the spring to look at ensuring that the employers who abuse the system, a small minority, are ineligible to use it," he said in an interview.

But Kenney said the government has no intention of turning off the tap on

the tens of thousands of workers who arrive from abroad to fill jobs in Canada, despite the rising unemployment.

"We do anticipate there will be a reduction in applications for temporary workers and work permits because of the downturn but there continues to be acute labour shortages in certain regions and industries so the program will be useful to those employers," he said.

Just last week, Kenney said he and Human Resources Minister Diane Finley met with representatives from the food industry. "They're still desperately crying out for more temporary foreign workers," Kenney said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Detainee blasts U.S., Britain over torture

A British resident held at Guantanamo Bay for more than four years returned to Britain a free man yesterday and accused the U.S. government of inflicting "medieval" torture on him — with British collusion.

Binyam Mohamed, an Ethiopian citizen with British residence, was returned on a charter flight after the U.S. government agreed last week to a British request to free him. All charges against him were dropped and he was never tried.

Mohamed, 30, said he was "neither physically nor mentally capable" of facing the media after nearly seven years in captivity, but in a statement

"I have been through an experience that I never thought to encounter in my darkest nightmares."

Binyam Mohamed

he denounced the actions of the U.S. government.

"I have been through an experience that I never thought to encounter in my darkest nightmares," the statement read.

"It is difficult for me to believe that I was abducted, hauled from one country to the next, and tortured in medieval ways —

all orchestrated by the United States government."

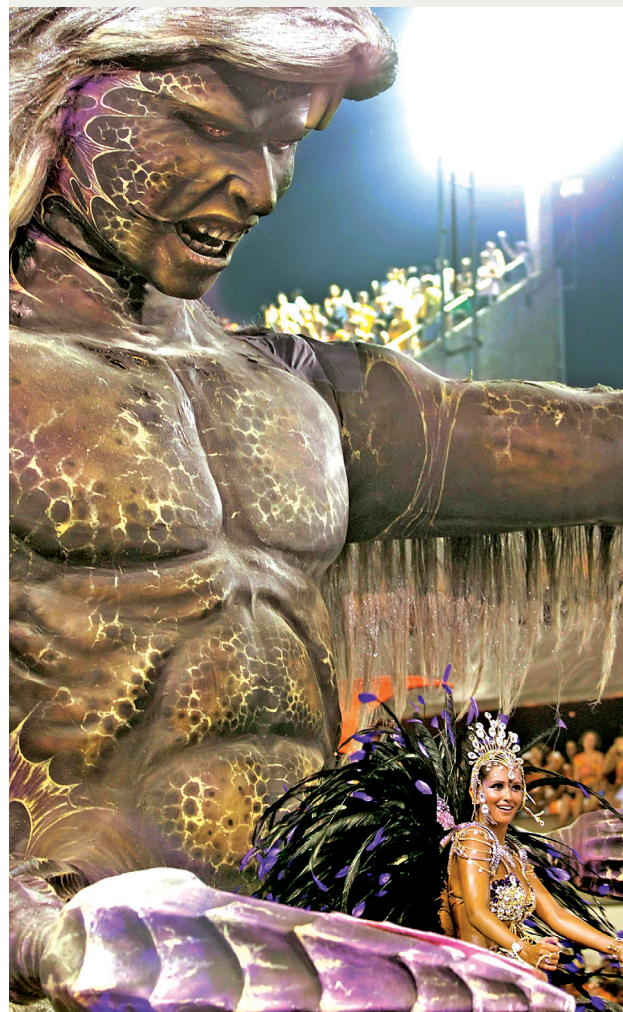
Mohamed began his detention in April 2002 when he was seized at an airport in Pakistan for trying to travel on a friend's passport.

He was held for four months, during which time he said he was tortured and abused by Pakistani intelligence agents in the presence of British intelligence officers.

In July 2002, he said he was taken to Morocco on a CIA plane and again tortured and abused for 18 months before a transfer to Afghanistan and then finally to Guantanamo Bay in September 2004.

REUTERS

Brazil **Now that's a float**



A reveller of Beija-Flor Samba School dances atop a float during the first night of the Carnival parade in Rio de Janeiro's Sambadrome yesterday. The nationally televised annual parades, featuring up to 5,000 dancers each, is a serious competition for the top samba schools.

Subs shipping cocaine to U.S. market

DRUGS Packed with cocaine and grimly christened "coffins," sleek jungle-built submarines are steaming their way north from Colombia through Pacific waters to deliver tons of illegal drugs headed for the U.S. market.

Skimming just below the water line, with only a glimpse of a glass-enclosed cockpit or metal tubes visible from above, the semi-submersibles are the latest shipment method used by trafficking cartels to elude detection by authorities.

REUTERS

News in brief

SUSPECTS Egyptian police have detained 11 people for questioning about the bomb that killed a French teenager and wounded at least 21 people near a popular tourist bazaar in Cairo on Sunday, police sources said yesterday.

WASHINGTON U.S. President Barack Obama pledged yesterday to cut the ballooning U.S. budget deficit by half in the next four years and said the country would face another economic crisis if it did not address its debt problems soon.

REUTERS

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Comment

Media melts over Obama

NationalReport

Lawrence Martin



ust being in the presence of Barack Obama elevated the stature of Stephen Harper last week.

It looked as though our prime minister had more purposes in life other than beating political opponents to death. One of his former cabinet ministers, Monte Solberg, has been saying that Harper needs a vision for the country, something other than damage control. Maybe this president can inspire him to think in loftier terms.

Harper handled himself impressively in his press conference with the new American megastar. Little of substance was accomplished at their meet-

ing — unless you wish to count that breathtaking commitment to a new clean-energy dialogue. But the media didn't challenge the two leaders to demonstrate concrete signs of progress. All that mattered was atmospherics and, from that point of view, the meeting was a robust success.

Tough questions? Forget about it.

Barack Obama arrived right on the heels of committing another 17,000 troops to Afghanistan. For a president promising a new way, the escalation of a war as the first major foreign policy act was somewhat jarring. Haven't we seen this movie before, someone might have asked him. A president ups the ante, a war drags on, a president can't recall the troops for fear that he and his country

will look weak. The quagmire scenario results.

Afghanistan, if history is any indication, does not submit to foreign occupation. Our own little Canadian experience, Obama might note, is just another added bit of evidence.

On the business of war, Harper escaped any questioning on his apparent reluctance to take issue with Guantanamo, specifically in the case of the Canadian, Omar Khadr. Obama has moved, thankfully, to shut down Gitmo, that appalling vestige of the Bush administration.

The issue of the NAFTA-gate controversy, the Canadian government's bit of leakage that

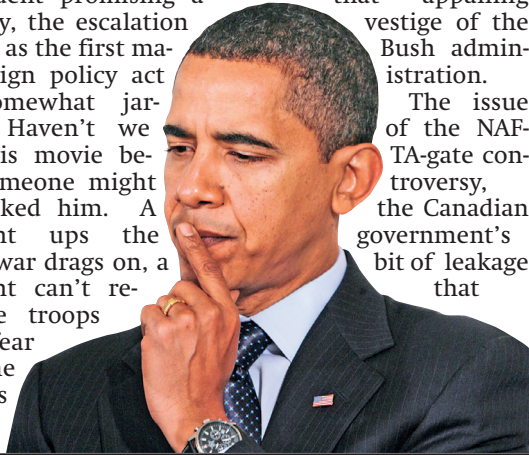
hurt Obama during his primaries' battle with Hillary Clinton, fortunately did not come up. It would have required some fancy footwork on the part of our PM. Nor did many other big differences between the two leaders — such as their positions on the Iraq war — impinge on the most friendly proceedings.

Bilateral relations were fantastic, the president and the prime minister said, not pausing to note that, for the first time in our history, passport requirements and armed men have become staples along the world's longest undefended border.

No one wanted to spoil the fun by pointing this out as well as a lot of other things.

What resulted was a good summit, made all the better by media compliance.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



Views

Send your well wishes to Canada's hard-up CEOs

InBusiness

Charles Davies



Veteran Business Writer

One can imagine the heart-rending scenes that have taken place in Canadian bank board meetings of late. CEOs, overcome with attacks of guilt and propriety, plead with their fellow directors: "Please sirs, cut my pay, slash my bonus, and rip the stock options from my hands. How can I eat cake while my customers starve?"

The directors balk, arguing that the CEO has done an extraordinary job of piloting a complex institution in difficult times. He has earned his fulsome

compensation, they say, but then they grudgingly accede to his request. After all, it's optically better to be seen as public-spirited than parasitic — like those shameless U.S. investment bankers who use public bailout money to refurbish their offices — in a time of economic crisis.

But let's put these sacrifices into perspective. While it's true, as RBC Financial Group CEO Robert Nixon recently said, that "leaders have to be sensitive to issues and developments in the broader environment," the fact is, he and his peers had a lousy 2008.

Net income for Canada's big six banks dropped to \$12.2 billion in the year ended Oct. 31 from \$19.5 billion the year before.

There's also a pre-emptive quality to the bankers'

offering. Nixon et al may be worried that shareholders, especially large pension funds that have seen their assets shrink faster than Marie Osmond's waistline, will rebel at fat paycheques during a recession.

Executive compensation has been a testy issue in Canada for years, but while some institutions, notably Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board, have been more vocal about excesses, the gravy train has rolled on.

Generally, Canadian shareholders sit on their hands and vote as management tells them to.

One would like to think bank CEOs, indeed all corporate managements, are awakening to something bigger, however. It's the notion that business shouldn't always be purely

about maximizing profit and shareholder value, or taking home the biggest compensation package, whatever the consequences.

Corporations, like it or not, are part of the social fabric, and they concede as much through their community involvement and philanthropy.

Particularly in hard times, it's fitting that companies temper the desire for growth and profit with concessions to the greater good.

For some companies, that might mean not having as many layoffs as possible; for others, it could be taking a pay cut.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters, and Financial Post.



Worth Mentioning

Public servants face bright clothing ban

CHINA Public servants in the gritty central Chinese city of Zhengzhou should not sport "unnatural hair styles" or wear clothes that are too colourful, according to new city regulations.

From now on, Zhengzhou city officials should make sure their clothing matches and stay away from bright colour schemes, the regulations specify.

Neatness and order are the order of the day.

"Don't just dress any which way," the regula-

tions order. Zhengzhou, the capital of land-locked Henan province, is better known for its agricultural futures exchange and railway station than for its sense of style.

But no specific breach triggered the latest set of rules, which are "designed to improve the image of our public servants," an official at Zhengzhou's central government office said yesterday.

REUTERS



Metro Online Poll Results

81% SAID YES

Was Hugh Jackman a good choice to host the Oscars?

Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

19% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Rough ride for economy in 2009: Bank of Canada

The Bank of Canada said yesterday the economy faces a "difficult" 2009, but repeated that the recovery will be supported by the past depreciation of the dollar and by timely monetary and fiscal policy. Real gross domestic product is expected to drop 1.2 per cent. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

GM on right track with aid plan: Clement

AUTOS The Canadian arm of General Motors Corp. is on the right track as far as its restructuring plan is concerned, but serious discussions will still be required before the struggling automaker qualifies for emergency aid, Industry Minister Tony Clement said yesterday.

The Canadian wings of GM and Chrysler presented their proposals last Friday to Ottawa to back requests for repayable loans.

"We have to go through their numbers to see exactly what they have planned ... but we've certainly got the skeletal structure of what they're going to do," he said of GM.

REUTERS

In brief

PENSION OMERS Administration Corp., a pension fund that represents 390,000 retired and working municipal Ontario employees, reported a loss of more than \$8 billion for 2008.

TAKEOVER Abu Dhabi state-owned International Petroleum Investment Co. launched a \$500-million US friendly takeover bid for Nova Chemicals Corp. yesterday, to rescue the raw plastics maker from high debt pressures.

REUTERS

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Soil treatment funding: A contaminated soil treatment facility at the regional solid waste park in South Ohio has received \$546,000 in infrastructure funding.

Hog farm closes: A once-thriving hog industry in Cumberland County is all but over as Jo-Mar Farms in Warren, one of two remaining hog farms, closes.

Look on the bright side: Canadians may feel the economy has bottomed out, and will improve. Consumer confidence rose to 67.0, the highest it's been since August.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning. Sign up today for the **DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ** nsbj.ca

Down, down, down: Markets take a tumble

Another day, another tumble in the markets.

Investors scrambled for the exits yesterday as fears about the extent of the U.S. economic slowdown dragged the Toronto Stock Exchange to its lowest point of this cycle while the

New York Stock Exchange hit 12-year lows.

Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index lost 302.32 points to close at 7,647.67 yesterday, marking a third straight day of declines. It blew past the lowest point of this market downturn,

which was set Nov. 20, 2008, when it fell to 7,725.76 points.

Meanwhile, New York's Dow Jones industrials fell 250.89 points to 7,114.78, partly on concerns the U.S. government will move to nationalize troubled banks

Citigroup and Bank of America.

Canadian retail sales plunged a deeper-than-expected 5.4 per cent in December, according to Statistics Canada.

Led by sharp declines in new car sales, the figure

was double analysts' consensus forecast and came on the heels of a 2.4 per cent drop in November. December sales plummeted as consumers cut holiday spending on clothing and accessories.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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NOTICES

There has been a change to the way in which the fundraising draw will be conducted for the trip to see a Manchester United soccer game. Ticket purchasers that have questions about these changes, or want a refund because of these changes, can contact Grant Murray @ 448-1318 or 465-5951.

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Tip of the Day: Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely. — Karen Kaiser Clark

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA



While saving for a down payment, one couple admits they neglected contributing to their RRSPs.

Wiser to contribute to RRSPs or TFSA?

Q For the past six years, my wife and I contributed very little to our RRSPs. In this time, we saved the down payment for the purchase of our own home. Before the February deadline, should we make a lump sum contribution to our RRSP or the new Tax Free Savings Account? Can we transfer some existing stocks into either plan?

— Paul

A March 2, 2009, is the final date to make a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) contribution that can be deducted for 2008.

The new Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) has a maximum \$5,000 contribution per calendar year. TFSA has no deadline. Individuals that do not contribute to the annual limit can make up contributions a later point in time.

The RRSPs and TFSAs are good tax shelters and should be utilized properly by individuals. They have very similar features with some differences:

- Both plans shelter income from investments
- Investments limitations are identical for either plan

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

- RRSP contributions can be deducted, not so with a TFSA
- TFSA holders can make withdrawals without being taxed. All RRSP withdrawals are taxed (except HPB or LLP)
- RRSP should be held for retirement, TFSA can be used to shelter short-term funds

You can transfer stock holdings into both plans, however, you may have capital gains tax on the appreciated values since inception. But in the current market, losses are more likely.

Consider paying down your mortgage. Have your financial adviser/accountant do the numbers for you. The returns for paying down your mortgage comes at no risk. The same cannot be said for the stock market.

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

Cash tips just one click away

SmartCookies



Online blogs are not only a fantastic resource but they can also fill the role of virtual money group. Knowing where to start when it comes to blogs can be a tad overwhelming, so here are some favourites to get you on your way.

Getting Started

To get back to the financial basics, check out moolanomy.com. Like many other finance blogs, Moolanomy offers sound advice on topics such as investing, saving, goal setting and real estate.

But what we think makes this site unique, is an element called blogroll. Blogroll is a directory of the top personal finance and money blogs. Having this resource at your fingertips will save you searching the web trying to find the best of the best. Another feature to check out is the freebie section that allows you free access to online money magazines and books.

Saving Your Time and Your Dough

These days, time is money. For creative ways to save on both, take a peek at lifehacker.com. This site offers clever solutions for a variety of everyday trials and tribulations, as well as more efficient ways to get things done, so you can work less and enjoy life more.

In one post, we learned how to pack an entire vacation's wardrobe in a single carry-on bag, saving money on baggage fees (not to mention the money saved on Tylenol that accompanies lost luggage). In another post, we learned that the real cost difference between making homemade laundry detergent



These days, time is money. For creative ways to save on both, take a peek at lifehacker.com.

and buying it in for the grocery store is just pennies — translation: Buy your detergent.

Money News While You Move

If podcasts are more your style, check out fundadvice.com/sound-investing/.

This weekly radio show was just voted "Best Money Podcast" by Money Magazine.

Sound Investing is perfect for the Smart Cookie on the go — you can simply download the latest in money matters straight to your iPod. For the novice investor this might seem like heavy information at first, but stick with it and you're

Riding the Recession

bound to be impressing all with your savvy investment knowledge in no time.

Fashionista Turned Recessionista

And last but not least, check out Vancouver blogger May Globus. In her blog confessions-of-a-fashion-fanatic.blogspot.com, May offers advice on how to maintain a sense of style that fits within your newly adjusted spending plan. She highlights great finds from popular fashion houses.

At the end of the day, you don't need to spend a ton of money to look polished, professional and stylish. All it takes is a little creativity,

some resourcefulness, and someone in your back pocket who is on the pulse of style.

For more money-saving tips, tune into the second season of the Smart Cookies on the W Network — Monday nights at 10:30 p.m. PST/EST. If you have comments or questions, email us at smartcookies@metronews.ca.

Tune in Monday nights at 10:30 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

Visit metronews.ca to read Allan Small's market update.

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Survey says...

According to the second BMO Savings Monitor survey, 25 per cent of respondents will not contribute to their RRSP this year, while one-third plan on cutting back on their contribution. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

RRSP Guide

Know how much money you can contribute, experts say.

Experts offer last-minute tips for investors

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada



The RRSP deadline is fast approaching but you still have time to make a smart decision.

Don't fly blind: Look at your notice of assessment so you know how much contribution room you have so that you don't put in too little (and lose an opportunity) or too much (and suffer penalties).

Stick to what works: The last minute is not the right time to try untested strategies or investments.

"It's important not to get swayed off your plan — stick with your original strategy," said Mark Coutts,

a certified financial planner with Sun Life Financial.

Don't make rash decisions: Buying the wrong investments just to "get it in" can lead to bad choices. "If you're in a rush, put the

money in, but don't lock it into anything right away. Sit down with your adviser and make the appropriate long-term decision when you have the time," said Scott Ward, financial adviser with Edward Jones.

Planning key for next year

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada



Even if you're going to miss the March 2, 10:30 p.m. deadline to contribute to your RRSP, experts say you shouldn't let yourself get discouraged.

Whether because of procrastination, a tough financial situation or another factor, missing the RRSP deadline can feel like a painful setback.

Scott Ward, a financial adviser with Edward Jones, says the most important thing after missing an RRSP contribution deadline is to make sure you don't do it again by analyzing why you weren't able to put away the necessary money.

"Make a budget. Take a real close look at what expenses you've got going out every month and what's preventing you from saving for your retirement," Ward said.

Even making a small adjustment, like eating out less, can have a profound effect on saving you enough money to put towards your RRSP.

Mark Coutts, a certified financial planner with Sun Life Financial, says saving a little money on a monthly basis is a better strategy than trying to dump a large sum of money all at once into your RRSP when the deadline looms. If you dropped the ball this year, plan to make your RRSP contribution a monthly commitment next year — after all, you're in this for the long term.

"If you miss the deadline, you've got the entire year of 2009 to look to the future," Coutts said.

Ward suggests that even if no new money is coming into your RRSP this year, now is a good time to review your portfolio and ensure your money is working for you.

Coutts says that while missing the contribution deadline can hurt, there are investment alternatives like the Tax-Free Savings Account, a Registered Education Savings Plan for your kids, or putting money towards your mortgage.

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Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Blue Jays lose Wells to injury

MLB Vernon Wells reported to Jays spring training last week looking to all like he was in great shape. He cut the usual figure of a star athlete, and it was augmented by a new twist in his approach for the upcoming season — the hiring of a personal trainer who will work with him on a daily basis all season long. All that — and his status for not only the opening of the Grapefruit League tomorrow, but potentially for Opening Day — was thrown into uncertainty yesterday when the Jays revealed their centre-fielder suffered a recurrence of the hamstring injury that plagued Wells last season.

Jays GM JP Ricciardi estimated Wells timetable to reach as high as four weeks. "It's preliminary right now, but it could be four weeks," Ricciardi said.

Wells twice went on the disabled list in 2008 — once for a broken wrist and the second for a hamstring pull — and went on to miss 52 games collectively.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Renney out, Torts in on Broadway

NHL The New York Rangers fired head coach Tom Renney yesterday and hired former Tampa Bay head coach John Tortorella.

Tortorella won a Stanley Cup with the Lightning in the spring of 2004, but was fired in June of 2008 with one year remaining on his contract. The Rangers, who also dismissed assistant coach Perry Pearn, have lost 10 of their last 12 games, including a 3-2 overtime setback at home against Toronto on Sunday. New York has a record of 31-23-7 and is currently 10 points behind first-place New Jersey in the Atlantic Division. The Rangers are also sixth in the Eastern Conference playoff race with 69 points, just two ahead of ninth-place Carolina.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

For more sports coverage, visit us online at www.metronews.ca/sports

Large crowds please Rainmen's owner

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston says he won't be satisfied until he sells out the Metro Centre. But he can't hide his happiness with the franchise's rising attendance.

With just two home games left in their second season, the Rainmen are averaging crowds of 2,811. That's an increase of 1,000 fans per game — more than a 55 per cent jump — from their inaugural campaign, when they averaged 1,811.

"It's definitely a good sign, a step in the right direction," says Levingston. "We want to keep building on what we're doing and the way we do that is winning games."

It's important to note Halifax's totals have the benefit of two buy-one-get-one-free promotions and a \$5 kids' night, as well as the detriment of a winter storm and a Thursday game.

The Premier Basketball League did not respond to numerous requests from Metro Halifax over the past two weeks for attendance figures, nor did it give a reason for the lack of data. It is not clear if the PBL even tracks it.

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

SIGNING The Halifax Rainmen have identified rebounding as a weakness and are hoping Reggie George addresses it.

The Rainmen signed the six-foot-10 centre yesterday, bringing in a 24-year-old who averaged 15.5 points, 8.0 rebounds and 1.9 blocks with the Premier Basketball League's Rockford Fury last year. He started this season in Mexico.

"We have a lot of talent



Halifax Rainmen player Tyrone MacNeal drives past two Manchester Millrats players. The Rainmen are averaging 2,811 fans per game, a big increase from last season's 1,811.

But various reports indicate the Rainmen could be second to the defending champion Rochester RazorSharks in the 13-team circuit. The RazorSharks average 4,265 a night.

The Rainmen's current average attendance would rank them seventh in the 16-team NBA D-League.

"A lot of it has to do with the quality of the league,

the quality of the basketball and the quality of the entertainment," Levingston says. "It's great entertainment for your dollar."

The Rainmen have generated plenty of buzz this season, but now face a big challenge with no home games until March 22 — a full 30 days away from the Metro Centre. Levingston

says he isn't worried the team will lose momentum. "We just have to do a lot of things in the community and keep our name out there," Levingston says.

Levingston says the Rainmen are taking a long look at offering permanent promotions to draw in fans, and \$5 kids' tickets is something they'll "potentially stick with."



The Halifax Rainmen have released Kevin Hammack.

minutes of floor time per night.

It's the second significant roster change in the

Pistorius recovering

South African double-amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius is expected to be moved out of intensive care within a few days and may be able to return home as he responds to treatment for an injury sustained in a boating accident over the weekend. Pistorius, nicknamed the Blade Runner, had his legs amputated below the knee when he was 11 months old because he had no fibulas.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

McConnery loses three straight

CURLING Dartmouth's Nancy McConnery had lost three straight as of late last night at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts Canadian women's curling championship in Victoria, B.C. She fell to 1-3 with yesterday's 8-6 loss to P.E.I.'s Robyn MacPhee and was playing Saskatchewan's Stefanie Lawton late last night.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

AUS HOCKEY The Atlantic University Sport men's hockey best-of-five semifinals open tomorrow in Halifax with the No. 2 Saint Mary's Huskies hosting the No. 3 Moncton Aigles Bleus at the Forum at 7 p.m. Game 2 is Saturday.

AUS BASKETBALL The host Dalhousie Tigers will open the Atlantic University Sport women's basketball championship on Friday at 6 p.m. against the Acadia Axewomen. The championship game will be held Sunday at 2 p.m.

METRO HALIFAX

SCOREBOARD

QMJHL

ATLANTIC DIVISION					
	W	L	OT	P	
x-Moncton	44	10	6	94	
x-Cape Breton	40	17	4	84	
x-Saint John	29	26	4	62	
Bathurst	20	28	12	52	
P.E.I.	21	29	9	51	
HALIFAX	16	37	6	38	

x-clinched playoff spot

THURSDAY
P.E.I. at Halifax, 7
FRIDAY
Cape Breton at Halifax, 7
SUNDAY
Halifax at P.E.I., 4

PLAYOFF RACE

(bottom two teams eliminated)

	W	L	OT	P
Val-d'Or	18	36	7	43
Baie-Comeau	17	33	9	43
Lewiston	20	39	2	42
Halifax	16	37	6	38

PBL

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE			
	W	L	PCT
Manchester	12	3	.800
Vermont	8	6	.571
Halifax	8	7	.533
Montreal	3	8	.273
Quebec	3	9	.250

PLAYOFF RACE

(top two teams qualify for wildcard play-in game)

	W	L	PCT
Wilmington	9	4	.692
Augusta	7	5	.583
Vermont	8	6	.571
Halifax	8	7	.533

NHL

TODAY'S GAMES
Florida at Boston, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Buffalo, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Montreal, 8:30 p.m.
Carolina at Ottawa, 8:30 p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at St. Louis, 9:30 p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

Energize your skin

Revitalize, stimulate and tone your skin with Yves Rocher's Energizing Serum, \$38, part of the new Culture BIO collection. It contains 14 organic plant extracts and is applied to the skin through a 30ml dropper bottle. Available at all Yves Rocher stores. **METRO NEWS SERVICE**



Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Healthy food prices rising, report says

Tips on how to eat nutritious meals while on a budget

There are "startling discrepancies" in the cost of basic, healthy food at grocery stores across Canada, according to a report released by the Heart and Stroke Foundation this month.

Some Canadians, depending on where they live, are paying between two and six times more money for the same grocery cart of healthy foods, the report found.

The cost of a package of whole-wheat pasta ranged from \$2 in Barrie, Ont., to \$11.37 in Dawson, Yukon.

The discrepancies in the cost of healthy food across Canada and across provinces is startling, said Stephen Samis, director of health policy at the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"Access to basic healthy food should be a right, not

Riding the Recession

a privilege," Samis said. "Yet many Canadians have trouble affording, or even finding, healthy food where they shop. This is a problem that may get worse given the downturn in the current economy."

A healthy diet is a key factor in preventing heart disease — the number one killer of men and women in Canada. Studies have shown that eating a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains can reduce the risk of heart disease by 30 per cent.

For Canadians looking for more ways to cut back on spending but not nutrition, registered dietitian

Amanda Schwartz offers these tips:

- **COOK SEASONALLY** Fruits and vegetables that are in season are cheaper than off-season fare. In the winter season try buying cabbage, carrots, garlic, kale, leeks, onions, parsnips, apples, kiwi, bananas and oranges.

- **PURCHASE FOODS THAT PROVIDE MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK** Examples of fruits and vegetables that provide a high nutrient to price ratio include cabbage, carrots, oranges, bananas, frozen and canned fruits and vegetables.

- **HAVE BREAKFAST FOR SUPER** Eggs are a great, less expensive source of protein that can be eaten at any meal. Try making an omelette with a plethora of colourful vegetables and include whole grain toast or a

sweet potato for a well balanced and filling dinner.

- **DO THE PREP WORK** Bagged salad mixes and pre-chopped produce may save time but that extra convenience will cost you.

- **MAKE YOUR OWN SNACKS** Popcorn is one of the most commonly recommended snacks by dietitians and is a snap to make. Buy an air-popper and make your own air-popped pop corn for a great low calorie snack. Also, try making your own trail mixes by getting walnuts and almonds and other nuts from the bulk bins and include dried fruits and pretzels.

- **SHOP WITH A BUDDY** If you live alone try buying bulk-sized items and splitting them with a friend(s).

- **USE COUPONS** Check out weekly fliers for great savings. **METRO NEWS SERVICE**



When grocery shopping, look for foods that provide more bang for your buck like products that are high in nutrients.

Five ways to improve your hair

ELISABETH KING
for Metro Canada



1. SWIMMING Shower before getting into a pool or spa — the water expands your hair cuticles, lessening the risk of chlorine damage. If you swim mostly in salt water, use protein treatments to keep hair soft and shiny, such as VO5 Hot! Protein (\$5, 3x25g sachets).

2. ANTI-AGING Help hair regain strength and vitality with an anti-aging shampoo that fights damaging free radicals, such as Phytodensium Anti-Aging Shampoo For Lifeless Hair (\$26, 200 mL). For stronger, fuller-looking hair, try Dove's Advanced Care Pro-Age shampoo and conditioner (\$8 each, 355 mL).

3. HEAT DAMAGE Prevent heat damage by allowing hair to air-dry as much as possible and turn down the heat on your blow-dryer. To maintain your hair's volume, use lightweight styling products such as Pantene Pro-V Style Body Builder Volumizing Mousse (\$6, 187 g).



Limit heat damage by allowing your hair to dry as much as possible before using a blow-dryer.

4. COLOUR Use a colour-protecting conditioner — even if you're not colouring your hair. Hormonal changes, cell renewal slowdown and various medications can all affect your hair's condition. Try Dove Advanced Color Therapy conditioner (\$5, 355 mL).

5. ANTI-DANDRUFF Dandruff is caused by an overgrowth of the fungus *Pityrosporum ovale*, found naturally on most scalps. Stress and poor diet can make it

worse. Today's products are milder, thanks to pyrithione zinc, an anti-fungal agent. Try Head & Shoulders Classic Clean shampoo and conditioner (\$7 each, 400 mL) or Herbal Essences No Flakin' Way (\$3, 300 mL).

besthealthmag.ca

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Incorporate antioxidants in your diet

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada



NUTRITION "Antioxidants" is the new household word. But what are these health powerhouses, and where can we find them?

Antioxidants are key nutrients to our health. Think of vegetables and fruits with the deepest, darkest colours as having the most antioxidant pow-

er. More and more studies these days are showing that antioxidants can help fend off diseases, even serious ones like heart disease and some types of cancer.

According to homeopathic doctor Bryce Wylde, author of *The Antioxidant Prescription*, we need to consume more antioxidants these days to counteract our unhealthy environment and lifestyle.

"With our load of toxins, stress and lack of exercise, we need a much higher level of antioxidants."

Antioxidant superheroes are: Berries (blackberries, elderberries, blueberries and strawberries), red wine (in moderation, of course), spinach, kale, broccoli, garlic, tomatoes, carrots, dark chocolate (yeah!), coffee, beans, nuts, legumes, and spices such as sage, cumin, turmeric and curry.

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It's condom month: remember your rubber

With all the focus on love and romance this month, I almost forgot the fact that February is also condom

month. But there's still a week to celebrate. Maybe I'll buy a box, blow them up and bounce them around the room like I did with my high school sweetheart to ease our nervousness the

first time we had sex.

Condoms have come a long way since then. These days, condoms come ribbed, textured, ultra-thin, extra large, low-odour, specially designed for her

pleasure, the list goes on.

So why is it, with so many condoms to choose from, so many of us still aren't using them? According to sexualityandu.ca, a Canadian sexual health in-

formation website, "of sexually active adults aged 20 to 24, 44 per cent reported having sex without a condom, 33 per cent of those aged 18 to 19 and 22 per cent of those aged 15 to 17."

Not surprisingly, rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis have all increased in recent years. Higher rates are no doubt also due to increased awareness resulting in more people getting tested but still, last time I checked, unprotected sex is the only way you can acquire an STI.

Sadly, we come up with all kinds of reasons not to practise safer sex. Fear, for example, is a big one — fears that are greater than a nasty STI or HIV — like the fear that, gasp, a guy might lose his erection if he wears a condom.

There are other reasons why we take the risk; in fact, in some cases, the thrill of the risk is one of them. In other cases, if you slip once with a lover and the sky doesn't fall, it's easier to slip again. Studies have even shown that people use logic as naïve as "he looked clean" or "I trusted him" as reason enough to lose the rubber.

Most of us still aren't comfortable even raising

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

the subject. We can talk about what restaurant to meet at for a date but we can't talk about taking care of each other's sexual health. Letting someone know that you care about him or her and wanting that person to be safe should be a positive, natural thing.

But, rather than risk one — fears that are greater than a nasty STI or HIV — like the fear that, gasp, a guy might lose his erection if he wears a condom. Spoiling the moment by trying to lunge over to the bedside drawer without injury, seductively tearing open a condom with your teeth and sliding it on, all without miss-

Studies have shown that people use logic as naïve as "he looked clean" or "I trusted him" as reason enough to lose the rubber.

ing a beat, it's much easier to just go with the flow and let things unfold according to your desires. And learn to live with the guilt. Hey, I'm Catholic — you can learn to live with guilt. Potentially life-threatening infections and diseases, on the other hand, not so much.

Happy condom month!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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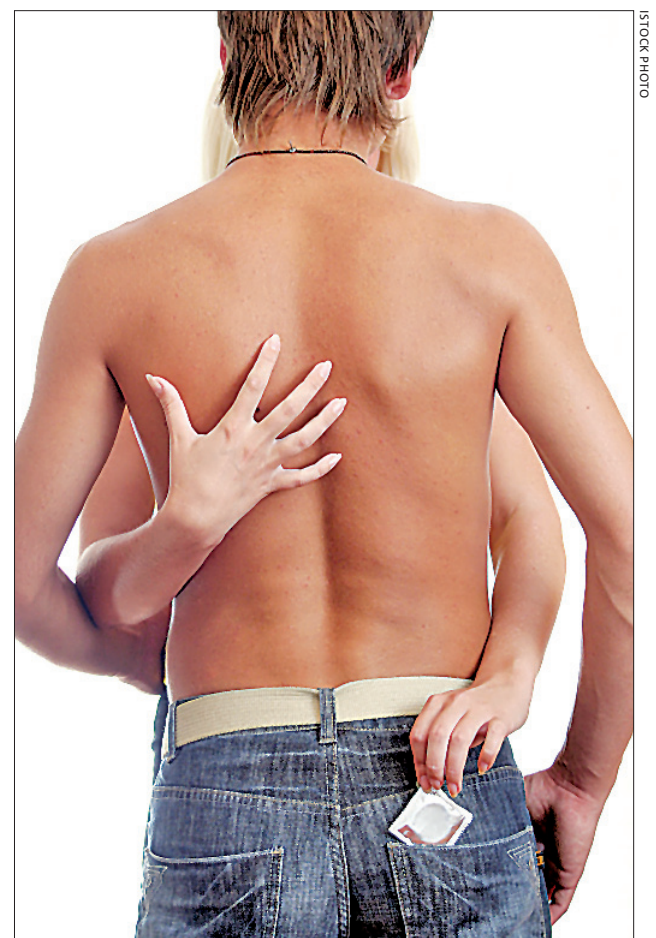
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February is condom month — a reminder to avoid taking risks with our sexual health, says our columnist.

ISTOCK PHOTO

Date set for third Twilight film

A reported release date for Eclipse, the third film in the Twilight saga, has been revealed. A source at Summit Entertainment tells MTV that Eclipse will arrive in theaters on June 30, 2010. New Moon rises in theaters on Nov. 20 of this year. **MSN.COM**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



Hugh's hopes

Although Oscar-winner Kate Winslet has vowed to stop taking her clothes off in movies, Hugh Hefner hopes she'll first grace the pages of Playboy, according to Digital Spy. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Fortune stops smiling on J.D.

Rock Star: INXS winner is homeless

At this time just three years ago, J.D. Fortune was a month into the wildest ride of his life: a world-wide concert tour serving as frontman for Australian rock 'n' roll legends INXS.

The 18-month tour was a smash, in some locales drawing crowds as large as 80,000 people. The band's first release with Fortune replacing the late Michael Hutchence on the mike, 2005's Switch, had given the aging band its most vital commercial presence since the multi-platinum heyday of such monster records as 1987's Kick and 1990's X, in no small part due to a radio-storming first single, Pretty Vegas, written by Fortune.

It seemed like the Idol-esque "reality" TV series Rock Star: INXS had delivered the dream it had promised: instant rock stardom, on a global level.

A few days ago, though, Fortune, 35, was ringing up old friends at Sony Music Canada on a borrowed cell-phone, despairing that he had nowhere to stay that night and venting at the label because he'd been dumped from its roster and had bankrupted himself making a solo album that no one wanted to release. So much for harmony.

Why? Because despite its members' claims at the time of Fortune's Rock Star win in late 2005 that he was a permanent hire, INXS dumped its new singer off at the Hong Kong airport when the clock ran out on its 18-month Switch tour. Handshakes all around and a "thank you" and that was it, according to Fortune. The band didn't even bother to announce the firing.

Neither did Fortune, until last week when he brought his story to Entertainment Tonight Canada in an interview that was quickly picked up around the globe. Suddenly, the

headline "INXS singer homeless and living in his car" was everywhere.

News of his exit from INXS caught even the band's long-time spokesperson Chrissy Camp by surprise. It might also soon force INXS to announce that INXS itself is completely over. Camp told Australian newspaper The Daily Telegraph, the band would release a statement about its future in the next few weeks.

INXS otherwise kept silent all week long with its side of the story, as have the band's various record labels around the planet, leading to much online speculation that Fortune, who has conceded a major cocaine problem played a

"The deals on those shows aren't great ... I wouldn't be surprised if the security guards on his tour got paid more than him."

Lukas Rossi

part in his ouster from the band, might be exaggerating the cruelty of his fate.

Interview requests were relayed directly to the Picou Co.-native by a friend, but he has thus far kept mum. Fellow Canadian Lukas Rossi suffered a similar fate when his inaugural tour with Rock Star: Supernova, the second "real



Former INXS singer J.D. Fortune performs with the band in 2006.

band" created by the TV show of the same name, wrapped up. The only difference, he says, was that his all-star bandmates Tommy Lee, Jason Newsted and Gilby Clarke "didn't drop me off in Asia somewhere." He believes Fortune is in

dire straits. "The deals on those shows aren't great. He's definitely not set for life," says Rossi. "I wouldn't be surprised if the security guards on his tour got paid more than him. ... But you take what you can get, you know?" **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Oscars triumph celebrated in Mumbai slums

FILM Bollywood met Hollywood for real yesterday as Mumbai slum dwellers celebrated the triumph of Slumdog Millionaire, clapping, whooping and dancing like Indian film stars after the rags-to-riches romance swept Oscar gold.

Slumdog, the tale of a poor Indian boy who competes for love and money on a TV game show, won eight awards including best picture. The film was shot in the teeming shantytowns of Mumbai and cast several children who live in the city's Garib Nagar slum. "I'm so happy that my daughter has won this award and I could see her on stage with such big stars," said Muni Qureshi, mother of eight-year-old Rubina Ali. **REUTERS**

critics' corner

Wild Roses
Relationships are on the front burner in this new episode, which finds Charlotte (Clare Stone) falling more deeply into Jude's (Landon Liboiron) world, while Will and Lucy's (Steve Byers, Sarah Power) romance heats up. Peter (Adam MacDonald) finds inspiration from his hospital roommate, and David (Gary Hudson) finds a possible source of support for his attempt to take over Rivercross. 9 PM on CBC



Homeland Security USA
Sounds like one for "America's Dumbest Criminals." In this new episode, a Coast Guard agent stops a guy driving a personal watercraft through a manatee zone off Miami. In a collision between him and one of the big sea mammals, guess who'd probably win. 9 PM on ABC

Blue Rodeo in Stereovision: 20 Years of Sweet Soul Music
Its most recent album is called "Small Miracles," and in an age of short attention spans and fickle public tastes, Blue Rodeo's longevity could qualify as one. This special from 2004 profiles the popular country-rock band with a focus on its two lead members, Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor. Author and musician Paul Quarrington narrates the special, which traces the two men's journey, beginning with their friendship in high school. 10 PM on BRAVO

GlobalStyle



Kenya Hunt

metronews.ca/globalstyle

	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2/24/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Homeland Security USA		State of the Union "2009" (Live)	
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Cold Case	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Comedy Now
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Wild Roses (N) (DVS)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	La Factice	Providence (HDTV) (SC)	Roxy (SC)	Grosse vie	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NCIS (HDTV) (N)	State of the Union "2009" (Live)		
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Gags	Star Académie:	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)	La Promesse (HDTV) (N) (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	90210 (HDTV)	NCIS (HDTV) (N)	Project Runway Canada		News (N)	
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU	Criminal Minds "Lucky"	Criminal Minds		News (N)	
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television				Podium TV	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)	State of the Union "2009" (Live)		
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Biggest Loser (N)	State of the Union "2009" (Live)		
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		Seeking
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	La Plaza-Maria	Nova (HDTV) (N) (DVS)	Frontline (DVS)	The Linguists		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Nova (HDTV) (N) (DVS)	State of the Union "2009" (Live)			
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	Catherine (SC)	Piégé Zézé	Dirty Sexy Money (SC)	Men in Trees: leçons		110 pour cent	
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call	
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Commodities	Campbell Brown: No Bias	State of the Union (Live)		Cooper 360	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Inside PGA	The Approach	19th Hole	Top 10	WGC Match Play
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet Connected	World Sport	NHL Hockey	Carolina Hurricanes at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)	Sportsnet Con.			
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	Cabby Unlimit	Court Surfing	NBA news, scores and highlights.			Score Tonight
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time (N)	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import
	53	53	53	TSN	Curling: Tournament of Hearts	NBA Basketball	Minnesota Timberwolves at Toronto Raptors.	Curling: Tournament of Hearts				
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoeys 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	The Suite Life	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad
	26	26	26	TREE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Big & Small (N)	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files	The First 48 (HDTV)	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay	Rez Rides	Fish Out	Mixed Blessing
	70	70	70	APTN	News	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Street Legal	Sounds Like Motown	Live at the Rehearsal Hall	Sweet Soul Music		
	50	50	50	BET	25 25 CMT	Cross Canada Countdown	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons
	37	37	37	BRVO	153 153 COURT	Killer Next Door	World's Wildest Police Videos	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Moment of Impact 2	Police Videos	
family	25	25	25	CMT	38 38 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver	Daily Planet (N)	How It's Made	How It's Made	Destroyed	Time Warp (N)	Ext. Loggers
	49	49	49	COM	34 48 HGTV	Holmes on Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.
	153	153	153	COURT	46 46 HIST	Ultimate Engineering	NCIS "Marine Down"	Ultimate Engineering	Ax Men			NCIS
	38	38	38	DISC	17 17 MM	disBand	Technical Diff.	Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	disBand	Technical Diff.
	34	48	48	HGTV	19 19 MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com	Where You At	Popagenda	Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Degrassi: TNG
	46	46	46	HIST	201 201 201	M1	(5:45) Shooter (2007)	Michael Clayton *** (2007, Drama)	George Clooney.	21 ** (2008, Drama) Jim Sturgess.		
	17	17	17	MM	48 23 23	OLN	American Gladiators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter
	51	51	51	PEACH	51 51 51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	The Last Castle ** (2001, Suspense)	Robert Redford, Mark Ruffalo.	
	206	206	206	PIX	67 67 67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Grands reportages (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	67	67	67	RDI	39 39 39	SHOW	X-Weighted	The Outer Limits	Trinny and Susannah Undress	Rich Bride, Poor Bride	End of Leash	
cable variety	40	40	40	SLICE	47 47 47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	Lost "Numbers"	Star Trek: Voyager	Destin. Truth	
	14	14	14	SPIKE	57 98 98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Ultimate Knockouts	
	21	21	21	TLC	21 21 21	TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Seinfeld	Raymond
	56	34	34	TROP	20 20 20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Change	Caméra café	I Prophecy	
	28	28	28	V	60 97 97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways	Judging Amy	Missing	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Naked
	22	22	22	W	251 251 251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Chicago Bulls. (HDTV) (Live)	
	251	251	251	WGN								



Not every star likes the red carpet. Some like to sneak in the back. "It's so much nicer. No one's screaming," Goldie Hawn said as she arrived at a loading dock behind the Kodak Theatre about 45 minutes before Sunday's Oscar show. **MSN.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Madge flaunts new boyfriend at Oscars

LOVERS Madonna was "all over" her new boyfriend Jesus Luz at the Oscars, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 50-year-old singer went public with the 22-year-old Brazilian model for the first time, flaunting him at a pre-Academy Awards party last night.

A source said: "She was all over him at the Grey Goose pre-Oscars party at Cecconi's in Los Angeles. She was kissing his face off. Then she decided to invite him to join her at the actual bash — their first public outing together."

It was recently revealed

the pop star is desperate to prove she is committed to Luz, following claims the Hung Up singer is only romancing the model to make her estranged husband Guy Ritchie jealous.

A source said: "Madonna and Jesus have spent all week planning their outfits for Oscar night. Madonna is planning on using the Vanity Fair party to introduce Jesus to the world as her new boyfriend."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Beckhams want to renew vows

RELATIONSHIP David and Victoria Beckham are planning to renew their wedding vows, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The soccer star and the former Spice Girl have told friends they want to celebrate their 10th anniversary in July with a lavish commitment ceremony. A source told Britain's Daily Express:

"David has promised Victoria that they will renew their vows at the beginning of July, around their 10th wedding anniversary."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Woman trouble for Winehouse?

INCIDENT Amy Winehouse's rampaging recuperation in the Caribbean continues, and the troubled singer can now reportedly add same-sex home-wrecking to her list of hobbies. According to the Daily Mirror, a woman vacationing at the same St. Lucia resort was shocked to return to her hotel room and find her female partner in bed with the Rehab singer. "It was a horrible thing to have to see — her girlfriend and Amy all over each other like that," a source told the newspaper.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Awards show like 'date' for Pitt, Jolie

COUPLE While Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie were making a glamorous appearance at the Academy Awards, what were their six children doing at home?

"Throwing spaghetti against the wall," Pitt told People magazine on the red carpet at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood. Which

was just fine with two of Sunday night's nominees — Pitt as best actor for The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, and Jolie for best actress in Changeling. Neither

picked up an award. "We've been planning on this for months," Pitt joked.

"I like to think of it more as a date," added Jolie.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Travolta opens charity in memory of dead son

FOUNDATION John Travolta has launched a charity in memory of his dead son, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Hollywood actor and his wife Kelly Preston — whose 16-year-old son Jett died from a seizure in January — have created the Jett Travolta Foundation to help children with medical and emotional needs.

The 55-year-old star's official website says: "The Foundation shall endeavour to use its resources specifically to assist and provide relief to children with vision, hearing, mobility, communi-

cation, behaviour learning impairments or other special medical, environmental, health or educational needs."

Jett was found lying motionless in a bathtub on Jan. 2 at his family's Bahamas hotel. The teenager had a history of fits and it is believed he experienced a seizure and fell and hit his head. He was found by a caretaker and immediately rushed to a hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Jett was diagnosed with Kawasaki Disease when he was two.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Anne has a ball at Academy events

PERFORMANCE During the Oscar show, Prince Charming — in the guise of host Hugh Jackman — swept Anne Hathaway into his arms. And, afterwards, she went to the ball, people.com reports.

The Academy's Governors Ball, that is, immediately following the Sunday night ceremony in the Kodak Theatre. The evening was so rich that the Rachel Getting Married best actress nominee, 26, told People she had a hard time singling out a favourite moment.

"There's so many," she said before quickly amending her answer to, "I'd have to say being in Hugh Jackman's arms and him carrying me on stage."

Their number, part of a

satirical musical salute to the nominated movies — in this case, Frost/Nixon, with Hathaway as the former president — was rehearsed for "about a week," she said.

"I didn't really have that much input for what went into it. They just said, 'Show us what you got, and we'll work around that.' I'm a theatre-trained actress, so that kicked in for the singing."

"I think I was nervous for that performance and nervous about the nomination that the two just cancelled each other out," she said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Nicole's pals welcome baby news

PREGNANCY Now that Nicole Richie and boyfriend Joel Madden have announced they are expecting a second child, their friends are brimming with well wishes for the couple, people.com reports.

"I'm so excited for Nicole," Paris Hilton told People at the first annual Leeza Gibbons Night to Make a Difference in Beverly Hills. And Hilton's mom, Kathy, has a hunch that Richie, 27, may be seeing blue this time around. "I think it's going to be a boy," said Kathy. "I'm never wrong."

As for the expectant mom, "she's a cool chick," Chuck actor Zachary Levi, who worked with Richie when she guest-starred on the show, told People at the Fox Searchlight Oscar party. "I think that they'll be a good unit to

hopefully bring up their kids in a way where they are stand-up individuals who lead their generation into being a good one."

Actress — and mother of three — Angie Harmon said Richie's experience as a mom to one-year-old daughter Harlow will make parenting the second time around much easier.

"She knows what she's doing since she already has one," Harmon said at Prince's party for his website LotusFlow3r.com.

Harmon also had a request for the fashion-savvy star: "Start a maternity line."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



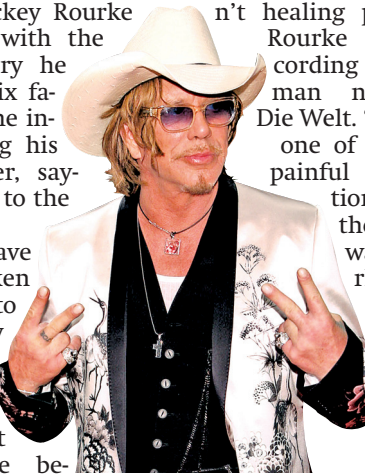
Rourke dishes on facial fixes

SURGERY Best actor Oscar nominee Mickey Rourke isn't happy with the plastic surgery he received to fix facial injuries he incurred during his boxing career, saying he "went to the wrong guy."

"I had to have cartilage taken from my ear to rebuild my nose and a couple of operations to scrape out the cartilage be-

cause the scar tissue wasn't healing properly," Rourke said, according to German newspaper Die Welt. "That was one of the most painful operations, but the worst was hemorrhoids."

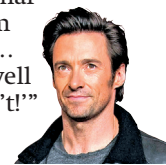
METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jackman grilled over gay rumours

SEXUALITY In her Oscar special, Barbara Walters grilled Hugh Jackman about persistent rumours that he is gay. Jackman said that when his wife would come see him in The Boy from Oz on Broadway, "She used to go to the bathroom ... and she would hear people going 'I know he's married, but I'm sure he is' ... she would yell out, 'He isn't!'"

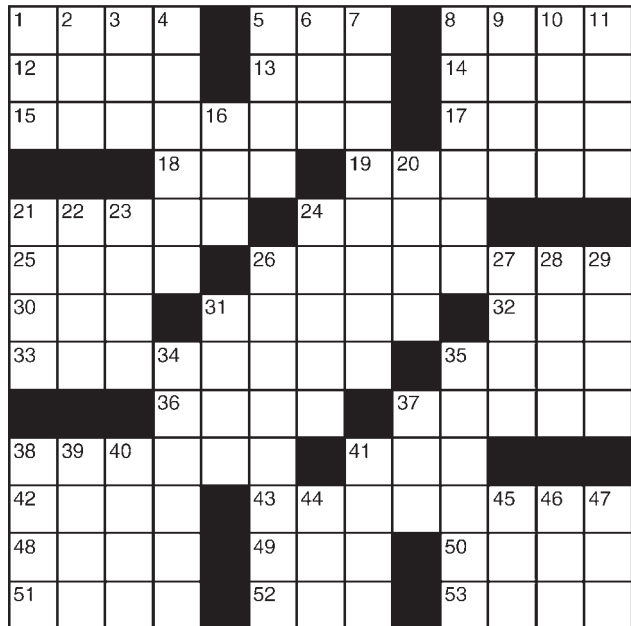
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Take Five



Crossword across

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Ms. Moore | phony" composer | great interest in his work? |
| 5 Occupation, for short | 24 Throat clearer | 41 Cushion |
| 8 Stitches | 25 Lotion | 42 Picard predecessor |
| 12 With 13-Across, hematite | 26 TV crime drama | 43 Max Bialystock, for one |
| 13 See 12-Across | 30 Put into words | 48 Advantage |
| 14 Met melody | 31 J.C. Harris' "Uncle —" | 49 Sailor's assent |
| 15 Breadwinner | 32 "Hail, Caesar!" | 50 "Arrivederci" |
| 17 Chain component | 33 Don King, e.g. | 51 Crystal gazer |
| 18 Whatever number | 35 Faucet problem | 52 Trawler gear |
| 19 Vitamin C source | 36 Sleeping | 53 Deserve |
| 21 "Surprise Sym- | 37 Daily trio | |
| | 38 One taking | |

Crossword down

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Party bowlful | 26 Mary Martin role |
| 2 Screw up | 27 Zhivago's love |
| 3 Cattle call? | 28 Satanic |
| 4 Encroach upon | 29 Agents, briefly |
| 5 Corpse | 31 Judicial garb |
| 6 Anger | 34 IOU |
| 7 Crucial time | 35 Figure out |
| 8 Hero material | 37 Angry |
| 9 "— Brockovich" | 38 Guitars' kin |
| 10 Airplane part | 39 Faction |
| 11 Benefit | 40 Incite |
| 16 Hostel | 41 Versifier |
| 20 Umps | 44 "Catcher in the —" |
| 21 Padlocked fastener | 45 KGB counterpart |
| 22 Re 10-Down | 46 Listening device |
| 23 Vacillate | 47 Director Howard |
| 24 Ready for battle | |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



9	2	4	6	7	3	8	5	1
1	7	3	5	2	8	4	6	9
5	8	6	4	9	1	7	3	2
7	6	5	1	3	9	2	8	4
3	4	2	8	6	7	9	1	5
8	9	1	2	4	5	3	7	6
4	1	7	3	5	2	6	9	8
6	3	8	9	1	4	5	2	7
2	5	9	7	8	6	1	4	3

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Spicy Rice with Chickpeas

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) medium curry paste
- 1 cup (250 ml) basmati rice, rinsed
- 2 cups (500 ml) water
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and chopped into small chunks
- 4 tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) sultana raisins
- 14-oz (398-ml) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh coriander
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) unsalted cashews, roughly chopped

METHOD:

- Heat oil in large pot and fry onion over medium heat 8 minutes, stirring until pale golden. Add curry paste and stir-fry about

- 1 minute.
- Stir in rice, then add water, sweet potato, tomatoes and raisins. Bring to boil, then reduce heat to simmer. Cover pan and leave on low heat 20–25 minutes, stirring occasionally, until rice is just tender and water has been absorbed. Add more water if the mixture becomes too dry before the rice is cooked.
- Stir in chickpeas and gently heat through. Stir in coriander, season to taste and scatter with cashews before serving.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Being subtle will get you more information. Something will cause you to feel breathless. A miserable man is strange but he will be effective.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A friend is in a difficult situation due to fascination. Concerns about leadership will dominate. You will experience a failure to communicate.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You're forced to discuss a tough issue. The changes due to an unusual event will please you. You'll be delighted when you achieve recognition.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You want to be spontaneous but a latecomer gets in the way. You must shake off any masochistic moodiness. Parental interference causes a quarrel.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You're in the mood to clown around. Beware of a vexed person in a secret meeting. You'll surprise yourself during a presentation.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll have a meaningful encounter with a friend. Your loved ones will finally get back to normal. A brash young man really wants your approval.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There's a problem with a romantic encounter. You'll see that nothing can be done in a battle of wills. A religious remark will cause trouble.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Everyone wants you to do the dirty work. A little man will cause delays in reaching your goals. You know more than you think.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A whimsical friend overwhelms your senses. A sympathetic response will release you from a burden. A happy moment will be cherished.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
There'll be intriguing phone calls made today. A private weakness will be revealed by a guilty person. Pay attention to someone who has a grievance.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A shrewd guy leaves you to pick up the pieces. Continue a discussion to clear up confusion. A wounded friend wants to re-establish a connection.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A confrontation has to be acknowledged. Don't bother questioning the cause of a predicament. Someone's cheerfulness is an intimidation tactic.



WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Wal-Mart founder Walton's chowder bits (1)

2. Talk show invitee quiz (1)

3. Outlaw Jesse points his gun (1)

4. Less speedy oarsman (2)

5. "Peanuts" blanket boy's negatives (3)

6. Level of respect for a home plate player (2)

7. Draw prominent attention to a roof window (2)

ANSWERS: 1. JAMES CLAMS 2. GUEST TEST 3. JAMES AIMS 4. SLOWER BOWER 5. LINUSS MINUSES 6. CATCHER STATURE 7. HIGHLIGHT SKYLIGHT

2-24-09

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

This day in history

- FEB. 24, 1868: The first parade to have floats is staged at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, La.
- FEB. 24, 1917: World War I: The U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom is given the Zimmermann Telegram, in which Germany pledges to ensure the return of New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona to Mexico if that country declares war on the United States.
- FEB. 24, 1920: The Nazi Party is founded.
- FEB. 24, 1981: Engagement of The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer is announced.
- FEB. 24, 2008: Fidel Castro retires as the President of Cuba after nearly 50 years.

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